

# **DRAFT 208 Water Quality Management Plan April 2010**

## **V. Wastewater Management Policies**

### **A. Location, Sizing, Phasing, and Level of Treatment**

The location and sizing of wastewater treatment plants and their accompanying collection lines are typically initiated by the designated management agencies. The management agency provides to the planning process its own decisions concerning the need to expand, consolidate, and otherwise directs their own program.

The need for phasing is determined by the management agencies and may be dependent on their local needs and ability to finance needed wastewater facilities. Phasing may be a result of DHEC's permitting program when additional quality of treatment is required and the provider needs time for engineering, financing, or technology development. Phasing may also be a result of postponing construction until the anticipated need for wastewater facilities actually exists.

The minimum level of treatment is a determination of DHEC. At the request of a permittee, DHEC will evaluate the location, size, and other technical information and make a decision concerning the quality of treated wastewater needed to maintain the State's water quality standards. The results of the technical evaluation may be part of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and will become a part of the Water Quality Management Plan and ultimately included in any discharge permit issued by DHEC.

### **B. Elimination of Discharges and Consolidation of Facilities**

DHEC encourages, when possible and feasible, the consolidation of wastewater treatment facilities into regional treatment plants. Regional treatment plants are typically more efficient and consistently provide better wastewater treatment. Consistent with South Carolina antidegradation rules, new treatment facilities will generally not be approved if the service area can be served by an existing treatment facility. The Plan may require that existing treatment plants be eliminated if continued operation threatens water quality or the systematic planned growth of a regional sewer system. Permits may be issued with conditions that require the facility to be eliminated. Any temporary facilities that would need to be eliminated in the future are noted in section VI of the Plan. Factors such as location of the treatment facility, water quality benefits, and economics will guide the decision to approve or deny a request for a new wastewater facility or to recommend the elimination of an existing facility. These factors may also be evaluated during antidegradation review for dischargers into high quality waters.

### **C. Septic Tanks and Other Individual Disposal Systems**

By regulation, DHEC's Bureau of Environmental Health will not issue permits for new individual sewage treatment and disposal systems where public sewer is accessible for connection as determined by them. Sub-surface disposal systems serving more than one piece of deeded property (e.g. community tile fields) should not be permitted where existing centralized collection systems are feasible and appropriate as determined by the Bureau of Environmental Health. Consistent with R. 61-69.505.8, proposals for systems

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permitted under R.61-56 for on-site wastewater systems serving more than once piece of deeded property must be reviewed for consistency with this Plan.